

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending.

Claims 1-6, and 29-34 are allowed.

Claims 7-16, 18-21, 27 and 28 stand rejected.

Claims 17, and 22-26 are objected to.

Claims 7-28 have been cancelled.

Claims 35-52 are new, of which claims 35 and 44 are independent claims.

No new matter has been added.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action dated July 17, 2001, the Examiner did not enter the Applicant's proposed amendments, noting that instructions to cancel claims were not submitted with the previously filed amendment; that new matter in the amendment was not underlined; and that new matter was also not underlined in an older filing. Applicant has revised the amendment as per the Examiner's instructions. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

In paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the Office Action dated March 27, 2001, [hereinafter, Office Action] claims 7-10, 15-16, 18-21, and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,229). Applicant has cancelled claims 7-10, 15-16, 18-21, and 27-28.

New independent claim 35 has been added which incorporates the limitations of claims 7, 10 and 17. Claim 17 has been found to contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New dependent claims 36-43 have also been added, and as these claims depend from allowable claim 35, they should be allowable as well.

In paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the Office Action, claims 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,229) in view of Nilssen (U.S. Patent No. 4,970,438). Applicant has cancelled claims 11-14. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 11-14, be withdrawn. As new claims 38-41 (old claims 11-14) depend from allowable claim 35, these claims should be allowable as well. Applicant respectfully notes the examiner's finding that claims 1-6 and 29-34 are allowable over the prior art of record.

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 17 and 22-26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As discussed previously, Applicant has cancelled claims 7-17 and added new independent claim 35, which incorporates the limitations of claims 7, 10 and 17. New dependent claims 36-43 (old claims 8, 9, 11-16) have been added. Applicant has also cancelled claims 18-28 and added new independent claim 44, which incorporates the limitations of claims 18, 21 and 22 therein. New dependent claims 45-52 (old claims 19, 20, 23-28) have been added. As claims 36-43 depend from allowable claim 35, and claims 45-52 depend from allowable claim 44, these claims are allowable as well. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims currently pending in the above identified application are now in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If in the Examiner's opinion the prosecution of the present application would be advanced by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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